

Disability Employment Accelerator (DEA) Solicitation for Proposals (SFP) Questions and Answers

April 20, 2016

PARTNERSHIPS

- **What would constitute a partnership?**

DEA grantees are expected to coordinate employment services with Local Workforce Development Areas (Local Areas). Services include, but are not limited to: Co-case management around an employment goal, “earn and learn” opportunities such as paid Work Experience (WEX) and/or On-the-Job Training (OJT) that lead to regular competitive employment in a position with a career path or other employment services that lead to direct employment in a position with a career path.

Additionally, grantees are expected to attend meetings with other Local Area grantees to share and learn best practices to assist people with disabilities gain significant employment.

DEA grantees are expected to collaborate with the EDD Workforce Services Branch (WSB) regarding program and fiscal performance, budgeting, expenditures, etc.

DEA grantees are expected to have quarterly site visits with their assigned Project Advisor from the Disability Policy, Employment and Collaboration (DPEC) staff. During these grantee site visits, the Project Advisor will provide guidance, assistance and support regarding project development, implementation and performance.

- **We have secured a partnership with our Local Area for the purpose of this grant, but wanted to know first if there are any documents, forms or structures that we need to put into place?**

Organizations that partner with Local Areas under special State funded grants will not need to submit any documents, forms or structural models to the State in response to the SFP. Any partnership agreement documents required by the Local Area and/or the partnering agency will be negotiated at the local level.

- **Can we apply for the grant directly knowing that our Local Area is serving as our mandated partner or does the Local Area need to process the funds for us?**

For the purpose of this SFP, only Local Areas are eligible to apply. Local Areas may submit proposals for up to \$150,000 total. Local Areas may not submit additional proposals on behalf of designated partners.

PERFORMANCE

- **Is there an expectation that all registered DEA customers will participate in “earn and learn” strategies?**

No; however previously awarded Local Areas have used WIA/WIOA negotiated rates of performance as a guide for their projections.

- **What is the average number of participants served by previous DEA programs?**

The average number of participants served by the previous DEA program was 30; however, grantees in urban areas served more participants than the average, while grantees in rural areas served fewer than the average.

- **What is the average cost per participant in the previous round of DEA funding?**

It depends on how the prior grantee structured their program. The goal of the DEA is to provide grantees the flexibility to develop innovative programs to increase the number of people with disabilities (PWD) gaining employment. The DEA also seeks to strengthen Local Area relationships with individual in-demand businesses within the region served.

One strategy implemented by a previously awarded Local Area was to spend up to \$8,000 total (from all available and appropriate funding sources) per participant for a combination of individualized career services and/or training services that resulted in regular competitive employment.

PROPOSAL FORMAT/SUBMISSION

- **Are we able to submit letters of support, and do they count against the page maximum?**

Letters of support may be submitted, but are not required. If they are inserted as content on the Proposal Narrative Form, they will be counted toward the 8-page maximum for the narrative. If they are submitted as attached supporting documents, they will not be counted toward the 8-page maximum for the narrative.

Note: Although an overall maximum number of pages is not defined for this SFP, applicants are encouraged to provide only those supporting documents that are relevant to the Proposal.

- **I am having trouble accessing the files linked on Page 3 of the DEA SFP. The link is not downloading the file. This appears to be an error.**

Issue was resolved 04/12/2016.

Please use Internet Explorer when accessing the [DEA SFP](#).

OTHER

- **Are synopses of the previous DEA funded projects available for review?**

Synopses are not available from the previously funded DEA project; however, we have future plans to post Executive Summaries once the currently funded projects are completed. There are Executive Summaries for the previous Workforce Accelerator Funding (WAF) 1.0 and 2.0 projects. The Executive Summaries are available in the Initiatives section on the [California State Workforce Development Board](#) (State Board) website, or at the links listed below.

[WAF 1.0 Executive Summaries](#)

[WAF 2.0 Executive Summaries](#)